



July 2005

AWIN Monthly Newsletter

Welcome...

...to the the monthly newsletter for the Arkansas Wireless Information Network, also known as AWIN. AWIN is a multi-phased approach to building the infrastructure for a statewide interoperable radio system. It will be used by first responders of all types across the state. As we move toward this new level of communication, we will continue to keep you informed of the progress.

AWIN Support

In partnership with the Arkansas State Police, the Department of Information Systems (DIS) operates the AWIN Call Center to support all AWIN subscribers (radio users) with technical assistance or AWIN-related requests. Technicians are on call in the event of any emergency. Call (501) 682-HELP (682-4357) or toll-free (800) 435-7989 or e-mail: awin.support@arkansas.gov

The DIS professionals who provide support for AWIN have fielded 182 customer requests to date.

Troops E Cutovers Begin

Areas E and F are the next slated to be cutover to the AWIN digital system. Moving forward, Area E cutovers will begin July 26 at Pine Bluff Headquarters, Pine Bluff Arsenal and Dewitt, and continue July 28 with the Jefferson County Northwest and Southwest sites. Cutovers in Areas B, D, I and L are now complete.

Troop F is scheduled to begin cutovers August 2 at Warren Headquarters Console, Sunshine and Junction City sites and con-

tinue with Winchester and Huttig sites August 3, then finish with Camden and Warren Headquarters Prime sites August 4.

End User training for Troop E began July 19th. Training for Troop E will be held approximately a week before the scheduled cutover. You can stay up to date with the implementation schedule and statewide cutover progress at the AWIN website http://www.awin.arkansas.gov/cutover_schedule.htm.

Directors meet with Congressional Delegation

Traveling to Washington D.C. Tuesday, July 12, 2005, representatives from the AWIN Program and the Department of Information Systems met with Arkansas' four U.S. Representatives and two U.S. Senators to discuss the scope of the program and future legislative possibilities.

AWIN is funded through federal Homeland Security grants and is therefore impacted by federal legislative initiatives. The group included DIS Director Claire Bailey, DIS Deputy Director Lindy Bowie, DIS General Counsel Anthony Black and AWIN Program Director Dale Saffold.

“At around 320 feet, over twice as high as the water tower, the AWIN tower looks like the Eiffel Tower of Prattsville,”

-Motorola Consultant said of the Area K tower in West Grant County.



Tower shots: Troop K West Grant County tower site under construction July 19 in Prattsville.

List of P25 Compliant Radios Expands

The window of statewide interoperability opens even wider as the list of manufactures offering AWIN-compatible radios expands. Thus far, the only radios used on the P25 compliant AWIN system are manufactured by Motorola, but with recent demonstrations that number is increasing.

Radio manufacturer EFJohnson became the second to successfully demonstrate and prove the 5100 series portable radio to be operable on the AWIN P25 radio system at a demonstration held June 24, 2005. Though more formal demonstrations have not been conducted on the Arkansas network, several manufacturers such as Kenwood, Macom and Tecnisonics are also P25 compliant. While the number of radio manufactures is significant, some products are not ready for shipment.

AWIN project managers are currently planning a comparative demonstration of the compliant radios which will allow state and county entities to make a better informed radio choice and make way for competition. The tentative deadline for the demonstration is mid-August. However, this date could be delayed pending the full implementation of the system in the Little Rock area.

Because the industry standards for the P25 system are open, AWIN users are not required to purchase radios from a single provider, but are able to purchase the unit which best meets their particular needs. For a complete list of radio manufactures that support the P25 system, please visit www.project25.org



AWIN Program Manager Penny Rubow coordinates the EF Johnson 5100 series portable radio demonstration which dispatched from Little Rock to Washington County June 24.



Arkansas Wireless Information Network
One Capitol Mall
P.O. Box 3155
Little Rock, Arkansas 72203